



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



وزارة الزراعة الفلسطينية  
MINISTRY of AGRICULTURE



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## United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)

Workshop on promoting the use of green technologies for a resilient and a sustainable agricultural sector  
Ministry of Agriculture in Palestine, 23-24 August 2021

### INFORMATION NOTE

#### I. Background

The agricultural sector in the Arab region faces severe challenges related to scarcity of natural resources, access to agricultural inputs, access to market, poor infrastructure, and climate change. In light of these challenges, comes the need to intensify efforts towards supporting agriculture through the introduction of green technologies to improve production efficiency while protecting the environment through sustainable use of natural resources.

To this purpose, UN-ESCWA is implementing a Development Account project on “*Enhancing resilience and sustainability of agriculture in the Arab region*”, which aims at enhancing national capacities to address resilience and sustainability of the agricultural sector in three target countries, namely Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine. Activities under this project include the development of training material and conducting capacity building workshops at national level in the three countries.

In Palestine, the national strategy of the agricultural sector (2017-2022) proposes, through its strategic objectives, to promote and enforce the application of innovative sustainable technologies and policies in order to strengthen the resilience of farmers and improve the sustainable development of agriculture. These include technologies and policies that contribute to enhancing food security through improving agricultural production, productivity, and competitiveness. In addition, the national strategy aims to encourage technologies and policies that are climate-smart and adaptive, biodiversity-protecting and desertification-combatting in order to ensure a sustainable management of natural and agricultural resources. Finally, it highlights the importance of continuously developing and expanding agricultural extension services to ensure proper access of farmers to quality agricultural services and latest technologies.

UN-ESCWA is, thus, partnering with the Ministry of Agriculture in Palestine in implementing awareness activities on selected green agricultural technologies. These activities involve conducting a “Workshop on promoting the use of green technologies for a resilient and a sustainable agricultural sector”. The workshop targets extension officers from the ministry and representatives from other relevant entities working in the agro-food sector and is planned to be held on 23 and 24 August 2021.

The workshop raises awareness of participants on five green technologies with a focus on the application of solar dryers and rainwater harvesting technologies. The project aims to promote knowledge transfer of these technologies to farmers and encouraging their adoption.

## II. Objectives

The workshop aims at raising awareness of participants on five green agricultural technologies that promote sustainable use of natural resources and improve agricultural production. Technologies addressed by the workshop include small-scale food processing and associated green and sustainable practices, food bio-conservation, solar dryers, green fertilizers, and rainwater harvesting. Given their importance, solar dryers and rainwater harvesting technologies will be tackled in detail to cover technical aspects and examples on applications adapted to the Palestinian context. In fact, solar dryers provide a tool that relies on renewable energy for producing a variety of good quality dried products thus reducing the energy bill and contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. They have simple designs, come at affordable costs, and are easily adopted by rural communities, hence, providing farmers with a variety of highly quality dried products and contributing to improving their livelihood. The same is true for rainwater harvesting; it is a technology that provides farmers with an alternative source of water that helps them overcome drought periods and inconsistent supply of water especially considering the restrictions imposed by the difficult political and security situation in Palestine.

The workshop aims at enhancing capacities of extension officers by:

- Adding to their knowledge about the five agricultural green technologies
- Empowering them to effectively transfer acquired knowledge to farmers

## III. Thematic Areas

The workshop focuses on explaining the benefits of adopting five agricultural green technologies in particular solar dryers and rainwater harvesting on which practical guidance will be provided.

Thematic sessions covered by the workshop are as follows:

- **Introduction to agricultural green technologies related to pre-harvest on-farm applications:** Participants will be introduced to on-farm pre-harvest green technologies, which will be transferred to farmers to ensure an efficient and sustainable use of natural resources and to improve their production. Technologies covered by this thematic area include green fertilizers and rainwater harvesting. A special focus will be given to rainwater harvesting technology; the workshop will cover the technology's potential, its benefits to agriculture and the environment, and its economic feasibility.
- **Introduction to agricultural green technologies related to post-harvest and food production:** Extension officers will be introduced to green practices and technologies used in food production that they can transfer to farmers and cooperatives working in the agro-food sector. These technologies help farmers and cooperatives improve their production and explore new market opportunities with innovative products. Technologies covered by this thematic area include food processing and associated green practices, food bio-conservation and solar dryers. A special focus will be given to the use of solar dryers in food processing covering all technical aspects to produce a variety of dried vegetables and fruits. Technical aspects will include, *inter alia*, optimal temperature needed for each crop, moisture percentage, size, thickness of sliced fruit. The workshop will disseminate lessons learned from a previous workshop organized by UN-ESCWA for agro-food women cooperatives in Lebanon on 6-7 and 13-14 July 2021. Finally, extension officers will be exposed to a "trainer's manual" produced by UN-ESCWA, to be used as a guidebook for extension workers to conduct similar trainings on solar dryers, in order to transfer such knowledge to farmers.

#### **IV. Organizational issues**

##### **A. Participants**

Extension officers specialized in post-harvest activities and food production will participate in the first day of the workshop, in addition to representatives from relevant entities working in the agro-food sector. The second day of the workshop will target mainly extension officers specialized in pre-harvest and on-farm applications.

Virtual access to the workshop will be provided to participants joining from Gaza Strip.

##### **B. Date and venue**

The workshop will be held at the Ministry of Agriculture in Ramallah, Palestine. The workshop will take place on 23 and 24 August 2021.

##### **C. Language**

The workshop will be conducted in Arabic language.

##### **D. Correspondence**

Correspondence related to the meeting should be directed to the following address:

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